

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 13 and 16.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Previously Presented) A negative electrode for a lithium sulfur battery comprising:
 - a lithium metal;
 - a pre-treatment layer formed on the lithium metal, the pre-treatment layer having a thickness of 50 to 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least 1×10^{-10} S/cm; and
 - a protection layer for the lithium metal comprising $\text{Li}_a\text{PO}_b\text{N}_c$, where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.
6. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 5, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $\text{Li}_{2.9}\text{PO}_{3.3}\text{N}_{0.46}$.
7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 5, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_3PO_4 .

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 5, wherein the ionic conductivity of the lithium ion conductive material ranges from 1×10^{-10} S/cm to 1×10^{-6} S/cm.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a negative electrode for a lithium sulfur battery comprising:

depositing a pre-treatment layer on a lithium metal under an inert gas atmosphere, the pre-treatment layer being deposited to a thickness ranging from about 50 to about 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least 1×10^{-10} S/cm; and

depositing a protection layer for the lithium metal on the pre-treatment layer, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $\text{Li}_a\text{PO}_b\text{N}_c$, where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $\text{Li}_{2.9}\text{PO}_{3.3}\text{N}_{0.46}$.

16. (Canceled).
17. (Original) A lithium sulfur battery comprising:
a negative electrode comprising a lithium metal, a pre-treatment layer formed on the lithium metal, having a thickness of 50 to 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least 1×10^{-10} S/cm, and a protection layer for the lithium metal;
a positive electrode comprising a positive active material selected from the group consisting of elemental sulfur, sulfur-based compounds, and mixtures thereof; and
an electrolyte.
18. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_xPO_y , where $2 < x < 4$ and $3 < y < 5$.
19. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 18, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_3PO_4 .
20. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the ionic conductivity of the lithium ionic conductive material ranges from 1×10^{-10} S/cm to 1×10^{-6} S/cm.
21. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $\text{Li}_a\text{PO}_b\text{N}_c$, where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.
22. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 21, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $\text{Li}_{2.9}\text{PO}_{3.3}\text{N}_{0.46}$.
23. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal has a thickness of 1000Å to 50µm.

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24. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer is formed on the pre-treatment layer.